# HABITAT CONSERVATION

## Canadian Wildlife Service Strategies for the 1990's

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Environment Canada
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## INTRODUCTION

The Canadian Wildlife Service, as the major advisor on wildlife matters to the Government of Canada, assumes the lead role in developing and implementing a wildlife habitat conservation strategy at the federal level. This lead role is reflected in the Conservation and Protection Results Definition Model:

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| **Mission:** | Contribute to the conservation and protection of the Canadian and global environments for sustained benefits. |
| **Need:** | Conserve Canada's natural resources. |
| **Effect:** | Wildlife habitat is maintained or enhanced. |

The Federal/Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Conference, to which the Canadian Wildlife Service is the federal representative, is in the final stages of approving and disseminating "A Wildlife Policy for Canada". The goal of this policy is:

> "... to maintain and enhance the health and diversity of Canada's wildlife, for its own sake and for the benefit of present and future generations".

Policy statements 2 and 6 go on to specify what governments should consider and do with respect to wildlife habitat.

The Canadian Wildlife Service's "Habitat Conservation Strategy" takes into account the expectations arising out of this draft policy and the Conservation and Protection Results Definition Model, and has been prepared in the context of its leadership obligations at the federal level.

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## A. WILDLIFE HABITAT CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE, GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### A Canadian Wildlife Service Perspective

The Canadian Wildlife Service, as the lead wildlife agency of the Federal Government, is guided in the conduct of its roles and responsibilities by legislation and regulatory obligations, by departmental and federal policies, and by its assigned roles within Conservation and Protection. It is also guided by its "clientele", ie. the Canadian public, whose views on values and expectations regarding Canadian wildlife are regularly monitored. CWS is guided as well by its relationships with other wildlife agencies and non-government organizations.

Drawing on this network of influence, CWS has adopted the following objective and goals for federal wildlife habitat conservation efforts:

**Objective:** Canada's wildlife habitat should be maintained or enhanced to sustain all species indigenous to (ie. naturally occurring in) Canada.

**Goals:**

I To maintain wildlife habitat throughout Canada in sufficient quantity and quality to support desired wildlife population levels.

II To encourage and support the habitat conservation initiatives of Environmental Non-Government Organizations.

III To ensure that the environmental impacts on habitat of new initiatives and existing programs and policies are minimized.

IV To ensure that the environmental quality of wildlife habitats is maintained or enhanced.

V To contribute to the conservation of wildlife habitat internationally.

VI To support and promote the development of scientific expertise to improve the technical basis for habitat conservation.

VII To ensure that the importance of wildlife habitat in Canada is promoted.

The Canadian Wildlife Service has developed a series of strategies and related action plans to expedite its contributions to the achievement of these goals as well as to illustrate how it intends to work with others in the achievement of habitat conservation. These strategies and action plans will be guided by a series of principles, grouped into four general categories:

(a) Habitat Conservation Needs/Obligations/Opportunities;
(b) Habitat Conservation Approaches;
(c) Responsible Agents for Habitat Conservation; and
(d) Leadership in Habitat Conservation.

Each of these categories and the principles articulated within them are consistent with the National Wildlife Policy for Canada (currently being finalized by the Federal/Provincial/Territorial Wildlife Conference), the Federal Policy on Land Use, the Federal Water Policy, the National Parks Policy, the DFO Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat, the draft Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation, and the Treasury Board Policy for Federal Land Management. These principles are consistent with Canada's commitment to fulfill the objectives of the United Nations' World Conservation Strategy. As well, these principles recognize and respect a longstanding idiom in Canada that the free exercise of private rights and obligations associated with land tenure should be preserved unless they are clearly demonstrated to be contrary to the public interest.

## Guiding Principles

### a) Habitat Conservation Needs/Obligations/Opportunities

- Canada's indigenous wildlife require sufficient quantity and quality of habitat to sustain their numbers and gene pools;

- No net loss of habitat functions is fundamental to wildlife habitat conservation, and, in areas where serious degradation or losses have occurred, net gains (through the restoration, enhancement and/or creation of habitat) are essential;

- All aspects of the Canadian landscape - urban, rural, wildlands and marine environments - represent opportunities for wildlife habitat conservation.

### b) Habitat Conservation Approaches

- Habitat conservation requires an ecosystems approach which takes into account the need for biodiversity. It follows that research is fundamental to this understanding;

- The way in which land is used and managed determines the quality and quantity of habitat upon which wildlife depends;

- The protection and maintenance of certain critical wildlife habitats may take precedence over their use and management by humans;

- Wildlife habitat conservation is dependent upon the incorporation of environmental objectives into the economic decision-making process, as recommended by the (Brundtland) World Commission on Environment and Development and the CCREM National Task Force on Environment and Economy.

c) **Responsible Agents for Habitat Conservation**

- Habitat conservation requires a cooperative approach involving all levels of government, land owners, native people, non-government organizations and the private sector;

- Management costs for habitat conservation are the responsibility of all Canadians, whereas the costs for mitigating measures to retain or restore habitat are borne by those whose actions affect habitat;

- Governments are accountable for the impact and long-term effects of their programs and policies on wildlife habitat;

- The Federal Government has a responsibility to conserve wildlife habitat, while respecting the jurisdiction of provinces and territories and the rights of individual land owners;

d) **Leadership in Habitat Conservation**

- The Federal Government has the responsibility to provide leadership for habitat conservation on federal lands and internationally, whereas the Provinces, Territories and Municipalities have leadership responsibilities on their respective lands.

- Effective leadership in wildlife habitat conservation relies on a well-informed and involved public, and is frequently based on partnerships.

## B. HABITAT CONSERVATION STRATEGIES FOR THE CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE

There is no one strategy which CWS can embrace in habitat conservation; rather, a series of strategies is required, based on the seven goals identified in Part A of this document.

To implement these strategies, action plans for CWS follow each strategy response, based on specific tasks identified by the CWS Habitat Conservation Task Force and others. These action items will appear in CWS Headquarters and Regions' annual work plans and long-term operational plans, in conformance with the Conservation and Protection Results Definition Model.

As implementation of these strategies occurs, tasks will be completed, new tasks may be articulated and added, and priorities may change. To ensure currency of this CWS habitat conservation strategy document, CWS Management Board will review it annually, incorporating amendments, additions and/or deletions as may be appropriate.

**GOAL I: To maintain wildlife habitat throughout Canada in sufficient quantity and quality to support desired and sustainable wildlife population levels.**

The Canadian Wildlife Service recognizes and accepts that the achievement of this goal must take into account not only its own mandated programs, but as well the programs of other federal agencies, the provinces, territories, municipalities, native groups and the private sector. CWS further recognizes that special consideration is required for northern lands, marine environments and endangered species. To clarify CWS roles and responsibilities a series of sub-goals have been identified, followed by a CWS strategy towards the achievement of the sub-goal.

**SUB-GOAL 1. To maintain and/or enhance wildlife habitat on federal lands.**

**CWS Strategy 1.1** CWS will establish and maintain key habitats in a national network of National Wildlife Areas, by:

- developing and implementing a National Wildlife Area Systems Plan to guide the selection, acquisition and management of National Wildlife Areas;
- effectively managing existing National Wildlife Areas;
- developing creative approaches to the securement of National Wildlife Areas;
- using acquisition to secure future NWA sites where other approaches are proven inappropriate or unavailable;
- establishing a federal funding capability to participate with other agencies to conserve key habitat.

**CWS Action Plan:** In the pursuit of this strategy, CWS headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- evaluate and confirm criteria for the selection of NWAs;
- rationalize existing NWAs, and infill, expand or delete as appropriate;
- enter into agreements with OGDs to transfer administration and control, and/or the management, of the habitat portions of their holdings to DOE (CWS);

- obtain and manage compensatory lands for key habitat unavoidably lost through the actions of others, in accordance with the no net loss principle;

- optimize habitat acquisition opportunities under other federal programs (eg. PASL, GLWAP, NAWMP, native land claims);

- pursue gifts to the Crown, land exchanges, lease arrangements, easements, etc. that have habitat potential for NWAs;

- develop funding responses to unplanned wildlife habitat acquisition opportunities;

- develop and implement NWA management plans;

- apply cost recovery (where appropriate) to offset operations;

- use partnerships and/or agreements to manage NWAs;

- use volunteers (where appropriate) in the management of NWAs;

- use NWAs for habitat research and to promote public awareness;

- improve enforcement regimes for NWAs.

**CWS Strategy 1.2** CWS will establish and maintain a network of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, by:

° developing and implementing a Migratory Bird Sanctuary Systems Plan to guide the selection, establishment and management of Migratory Bird Sanctuaries;

° exploring alternate forms of bird sanctuaries for municipal areas;

° effectively managing present Migratory Bird Sanctuaries, particularly those found on federal lands.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- evaluate and confirm criteria previously drafted and circulated for review;

- rationalize existing MBSs, and infill, expand or delete as appropriate;

- seek to strengthen Migratory Bird Sanctuary regulations vis-a-vis habitat protection, including the option of seasonal sanctuaries;

- improve the enforcement regimes for Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.

CWS Strategy 1.3: CWS will actively seek the cooperation of the Canadian Parks Service to ensure the continued maintenance of key habitats within National Parks, by:

° supporting and influencing the implementation of the National Parks Systems Plan;

° exploring the potential for cooperative and complementary programs with the Canadian Parks Service.

CWS Action Plan: In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Region will undertake the following actions:

- continue to share data and information with Canadian Parks Service vis-a-vis habitat and wildlife;

- investigate opportunities to share and link interpretation facilities and programs, environmental emergency response systems cooperative habitat research programs, endangered species recovery programs, etc.;

- develop mutually-supportive positions vis-a-vis habitat conservation issues;

- develop joint strategies to facilitate a DOE action response to the proposed 12% wildlands objective for Canada.

CWS Strategy 1.4: CWS will actively promote the protection, maintenance, enhancement and management of wildlife habitat on other federal lands, by:

° identifying, inventorying, assessing and monitoring habitat found on other federal lands;

° developing memoranda of understanding or agreement (MOUs, MOAs) or other arrangements as appropriate regarding habitat on federal lands;

° exercising horizontal influence powers through federal legislation, policies, codes of practice, etc. (eg. Federal Policy on Land Use, Federal Water Policy, Federal EARP, CEPA);

° influencing the policies and programs of other government departments as they impact on the effective management of habitat (eg. PFRA, DND, DIAND);

° influencing policies and programs on Indian and Inuit lands for effective habitat conservation.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- complete initial habitat capability analyses, by province, of federal landholdings larger than five hectares;

- explore an enlarged habitat management memorandum of agreement with Correctional Service Canada, based on the Kingston, Ontario (Frontenac Institution) MOA;

- using Ontario as a pilot, undertake an assessment of habitat potential of Indian Reserves;

- facilitate and support RAMSAR assessments and plans for wetlands on federal lands (eg. Walpole Island);

- explore MOUs/MOAs with other federal departments or agencies regarding habitat protection and management;

- contribute to environmental assessments under the Federal EARP regarding wildlife/wildlife habitat impacts.

**SUB-GOAL 2.: To maintain or enhance wildlife habitat on northern lands, i.e. lands in Yukon and the Northwest Territories.**

**CWS Strategy 2:** CWS will contribute to the maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife habitat on northern lands by:

° participating with native peoples in the land claim settlement process, to ensure conservation of key holdings;

° developing an effective environmental assessment capability to ensure habitat conservation;

° identifying and priorizing key habitats, and preparing conservation strategies;

° encouraging ENGOs to become more involved in the conservation of key habitats;

° expanding networks of MBSs and NWAs, and supporting the expansion of Canadian Parks Service programs for areas of national significance, with the concurrence of native groups and territorial governments.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- share and interpret wildlife/wildlife habitat data with native groups undertaking land selections for claim settlements;
- contribute to streamlining environmental assessment review procedures to avoid duplication with equivalent procedures;
- ensure full involvement in environmental assessment processes in the North, through EARP-response plans;
- identify key habitat for CWS-mandate species, and disseminate such information to all governments and agencies involved in northern development;
- develop an action plan to maintain the quality of northern habitats in case of environmental emergencies;
- participate in seminars, workshops, and similar activities that feature northern habitat issues;
- develop strategic action plans for the conservation of key northern habitats;
- encourage and facilitate native peoples' involvement in the management of key habitats.

**SUB-GOAL 3.: To support the maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife habitat on provincial Crown lands.**

**CWS Strategy 3:** CWS will contribute to the maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife habitat on provincial Crown lands, by:

- developing cooperative agreements for habitat conservation, maintenance and/or enhancement;
- influencing and supporting the establishment of habitat conservation programs;
- incorporating habitat conservation into federal/provincial agreements (eg. ERDAs, EDAs, Sector Strategies);
- influencing and supporting provincial policies and programs for effective management/conservation of habitat (eg. wetlands conservation policies).

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- contribute to the identification of key wildlife habitats of national and regional importance;
- develop conservation strategies in concert with provincial authorities, to protect key habitats;
- actively participate in provincial habitat conservation initiatives;
- provide scientific and management support in habitat conservation initiatives;
- participate in provincial habitat conservation committees;
- enter into partnership agreements as appropriate;
- urge the designation of important wildlife habitats as critical wildlife habitat under provincial legislation;
- review draft ERDAs and EDAs and make recommendations that respect the no net loss principle for habitat;
- promote the application of the federal EARP to projects, policies and programs as required;
- review major developmental proposals to determine if federal jurisdiction - habitat in particular - is impacted;
- encourage provincial wildlife agencies to review their departmental policies and programs to ensure the impact on wildlife habitat is neutral.

**SUB-GOAL 4:** **To support the maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife habitat on municipal and private lands.**

**CWS Strategy 4:** CWS will contribute to the maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife habitat on municipal and private lands, by:

° influencing and supporting municipal policies and programs for effective management of habitat;

° encouraging stewardship arrangements which promote habitat conservation and promote habitat extension services;

° developing, in concert with provincial agencies, cooperative agreements for habitat securement, maintenance, enhancement and restoration, especially in areas where degradation or loss is critical;

° ensuring wildlife damage prevention programs are in place to complement habitat development programs;

° encouraging private industries to participate in wildlife habitat conservation.

CWS Action Plan: In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- in concert with provincial agencies, review and offer scientific advice on municipal proposals, and identify habitat concerns;

- support studies that may recommend changes to the land tax structure to encourage habitat conservation;

- support and participate in private habitat initiatives;

- develop public awareness programs on habitat management techniques, and promote habitat extension services;

- facilitate the goals of NAWMP through the establishment of conservation areas for wildlife;

- develop crop damage prevention programs as required.

SUB-GOAL 5: **To support the maintenance or enhancement of the productivity of marine wildlife habitats.**

CWS Strategy 5: CWS will contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of the productivity of marine wildlife habitats by:

° promoting and undertaking activities in marine environments which are consistent with and supportive of the Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ) Management Framework;

° identifying, priorizing and disseminating information on key marine habitats to regulatory authorities;

° assessing the impact of fisheries practices on the food chains of specific wildlife groups;

° exerting powers to influence offshore developments and the transport of oil and other contaminants, to prevent damage to marine habitats;

° strengthening and enforcing existing federal legislation to reduce pollution caused by ocean dumping;

° establishing emergency plans to limit habitat damage on key areas resulting from oil spills and participate as required in emergency responses;

° providing habitat impact advice on applications for aquaculture permits; and,

° developing an effective environmental assessment capability to ensure marine wildlife habitat conservation.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- produce seabird atlases;

- conduct workshops, conferences, symposia;

- explore options to establish various reserves for seabirds;

- conduct cooperative research with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to evaluate exploitation of specific fish stocks, to determine levels that will permit their sustained use by man, birds and other wildlife;

- develop and implement educational programs for area fishermen regarding the stewardship of the environment they share with seabirds and other wildlife;

- participate in environmental assessments of offshore oil and gas developments;

- work directly with Canadian Coast Guard and other transport surveillance authorities to ensure active enforcement of transport legislation;

- advise and consult with Environmental Protection staff regarding applications for ocean dumping; and,

- develop within CWS an adequate response capability for environmental emergencies.

**SUB-GOAL 6: To protect, maintain, enhance or rehabilitate habitat for endangered species under federal jurisdiction.**

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will contribute to the protection, maintenance, enhancement or rehabilitation of habitat for endangered species by:

- leading, developing and implementing CWS and federal policies for endangered species which include appropriate references to their habitat requirements;
- defining minimum habitat requirements for populations of endangered species under federal jurisdiction;
- determining habitat management requirements for endangered species under federal jurisdiction;
- cooperating with appropriate agencies to identify, secure, regulate and manage endangered species habitat;
- participating in the identification of species recovery needs, and in developing and implementation of recovery plans; and,
- participating in the identification and implementation of habitat conservation plans for threatened communities (eg., Carolinian Canada, Prairie Conservation Action Plan.

CWS Action Plan: In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- undertake cooperative research to establish minimum habitat requirements and the opportunities available to meet these requirements;
- undertake site-specific research;
- develop cooperative arrangements to secure and manage required habitats and designate specific habitat sites to allow for regulatory control;
- provide active participation on RENEW recovery teams;
- participate on steering committees;
- provide scientific advice;
- support and influence management direction;
- promote the development of federal policies for conservation of endangered species' habitats, as well as endangered habitats;
- ensure that each CWS habitat takes into account the specific conservation needs of endangered species.

**GOAL II:** **To encourage and support the habitat conservation initiatives of Environmental Non-Government Organizations (ENGOs).**

The Canadian Wildlife Service recognizes that ENGOs have a special and growing role in the habitat conservation sector, including the focusing of public interest groups on habitat concerns; the acquisition and management of specific habitats; the generation of revenues from the public, corporate and government sectors in support of habitat initiatives; and, providing lobbyist, activist and catalytic leadership functions in support of habitat initiatives.

**CWS Strategy:** **CWS will actively encourage and support the habitat conservation initiatives of ENGOs by:**

° developing and entering into partnerships, agreements, etc. to secure/manage important habitats; and

° providing scientific/management support to ENGO habitat initiatives.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- provide increased support to Wildlife Habitat Canada through participation on the Board of Directors and on technical committees, through the undertaking of joint research projects, and through the provision of advice on program planning;

- ensure CWS capability to lever resources/support through appropriate allocation of resources;

- participate on scientific and technical advisory committees;

- encourage the creation/reactivation of habitat coordination committees where required;

- participate in specific project or program steering committees;

- provide national/secretariat support where appropriate; and

- organize and convene habitat-related workshops to facilitate implementation of ENGO goals and activities.

**GOAL III: To ensure that the environmental impacts on habitat from new initiatives and existing programs and policies are minimized.**

Revisions to the federal environmental assessment review process are expected to require increased participation of CWS personnel. Such reviews represent a "preventative maintenance" type of opportunity which can help to reduce losses as well as negative impacts on wildlife habitat.

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will contribute to the reduction of negative impacts on habitat from new initiatives and existing programs and policies by:

- developing and implementing an environmental assessment response strategy;
- working cooperatively with land owners/managers to achieve no net loss of migratory bird habitat functions from development projects, programs or policies;
- working cooperatively with federal land managers to achieve no net loss of wildlife habitat functions on federal lands due to development projects, programs or policies;
- promoting the no net loss concept for other wildlife habitat;
- developing and overseeing implementation of mitigative measures where habitats are adversely impacted or lost. Where possible, attempting to achieve a "net gain" in habitat.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- develop, approve and implement a CWS environmental assessment response strategy;
- develop data bases to respond to environmental assessment needs;
- participate in federal environmental assessments, and as appropriate, in provincial environmental assessments, participation to include the planning, implementation and post implementation stages;
- develop and implement criteria for the "no net loss" concept;
- seek public/ENGO support for the "no net loss" concept;
- test the "no net loss" concept in selected projects/programs.

**GOAL IV:** **To ensure that the environmental quality of *wildlife habitats* is maintained or enhanced.**

A variety of processes, substances and actions can lead to reductions in environmental quality of wildlife habitat, including the introduction (intended or otherwise) of toxic substances, environmental emergencies, loss of buffer areas, lack of surveillance and lack of knowledge.

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will contribute to the maintenance or enhancement of the environmental quality of wildlife habitats, particularly for migratory birds, by:

° monitoring habitat quality in support of the development and application of standards and guidelines for habitat conservation under CEPA and environmental assessment processes;

° ensuring capability to provide adequate response to environmental emergencies impacting on wildlife habitat;

° increasing enforcement of existing legislation (CEPA, CWA, MBCA, etc.) for habitat protection;

° describing trends in environmental quality of habitats for SOE reporting purposes;

° influencing and advising on policies and programs which impact on wildlife habitat (eg. FERDAs, other ERDAs).

**CWS Action Plan:** In support of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- research pathways of toxic chemicals through habitat;

- determine levels of environmental contaminants tolerable to wildlife as well as safe levels of contaminants in wildlife for human consumption;

- explore the use of wildlife habitat as a bio-indicator of environmental quality;

- determine migratory bird habitats at risk, with respect to toxic chemicals use patterns;

- develop appropriate data bases;

- map critical habitats for migratory birds;

- develop contingency plans to limit habitat losses or degradation in emergency situations;

- participate with and advise emergency response teams;

- disseminate information on key migratory bird habitats to regulatory authorities;

- exert horizontal powers to effect program modifications as required.

- promote CWS participation with national and regional SOE groups where wildlife habitat information for migratory birds is required;

- clearly identify policies and programs which impact on the quality of wildlife habitats and determine their precise impacts;

- design, promote or undertake studies to determine the environmental quality of wildlife habitats, particularly for migratory birds;

- sensitize decision makers as to the impact of their programs on wildlife habitats, and recommend corrective actions.

**GOAL V: To contribute to the conservation of wildlife habitat internationally.**

CWS recognizes that wildlife habitat concerns know no national or international bounds. Apart from the shared species of wildlife that Canada accommodates alongside other nations, Canada has a larger interest in habitats the world over, seeking to ensure that the habitats which support the world's flora and fauna are managed and maintained in accordance with sustainable development philosophy.

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will contribute to the conservation of wildlife habitat internationally by:

- developing and implementing cooperative arrangements which promote research, management, and sustained use in countries with whom Canada shares species;
- supporting international conventions and agreements which contribute to habitat conservation, and encouraging other nations to become signatories to such conventions and agreements;
- supporting and implementing bilateral and multilateral agreements or similar arrangements which promote habitat conservation;
- influencing and providing expertise to Canadian agencies and institutions (eg. CIDA, Agriculture Canada, Forestry Canada, banks and lending institutions, etc.) that undertake or promote projects in other countries; and
- promoting the use of alternative methods or substances where evidence confirms that current land use practices and/or chemical uses in the environment are damaging to migratory birds and their habitats.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- continue and extend the Latin American Program (LAP);
- arrange staff interchanges;
- develop and implement mechanisms such as shorebird reserves with other nations;
- continue and extend (via "twinning" principle) the designation of significant sites within Canada and internationally for migratory species;

- lead and implement Ramsar Convention;

- explore applications similar to Ramsar for the designation of sites for species groups other than waterfowl;

- promote the development of an international convention dealing with significant sites for colonial nesting species;

- lead and facilitate the implementation of the NAWMP in Canada;

- pursue the development of a bilateral agreement with the USSR regarding snow geese;

- pursue the development of a bilateral agreements with Denmark, Iceland and Ireland regarding marine birds;

- pursue the development of a bilateral agreement with France (St-Pierre-Miquelon) regarding migratory birds;

- pursue the development of other bilateral agreements as may be appropriate;

- formalize an administrative arrangement with CIDA to facilitate wildlife habitat conservation projects in other countries;

- access CIDA funding for habitat management projects and staff exchanges;
- review CIDA proposals which may have negative impacts on wildlife habitat, and recommend remedial actions;

- develop educational programs and materials to promote sound land use practices and the safe use of chemicals in developing nations;

- promote the development and use of biological alternatives to chemicals for use in developing nations;

- discourage the use of herbicides and pesticides not approved for use in Canada in CIDA-sponsored projects.

**GOAL VI: To support and promote the development of scientific expertise to improve the technical base for habitat conservation.**

In an increasingly complicated and sophisticated world, it is imperative that scientific knowledge associated with habitat conservation be advanced to ensure credibility in the various fora where decisions affecting habitat occur. As the federal wildlife advisor, CWS must continue to renew and update its science capital.

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will maintain and where necessary upgrade its scientific capabilities vis-a-vis wildlife habitat conservation, by:

- undertaking habitat research in conformance with the CWS Science Strategy;
- undertaking and encouraging the development of socio-economic tools in support of habitat conservation;
- undertaking and promoting research on the impact of contaminants on Canada's wildlife habitats;
- undertaking and encouraging research to improve monitoring and evaluation techniques in support of habitat management;
- undertaking and encouraging research to mitigate conflicts between wildlife and land use;
- undertaking and encouraging research on the habitat requirements for species; and,
- undertaking and promoting research on the impact of climate change on Canada's wildlife habitat.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- research methods of habitat management and enhancement;
- measure/evaluate ecological impacts of habitat management, and develop criteria to guide managers;
- support or facilitate research on international habitats for shared species;
- participate in interdisciplinary research as it relates to wildlife habitat, eg. "Wetlands are not Wastelands" project;

- participate in joint or cooperative research projects to advance the understanding and implementation of habitat conservation, eg. "Common Ground" report (CWS - Wildlife Habitat Canada - Agriculture Canada);

- participate with the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS) in habitat-related projects/studies; and,

- provide scientific and financial assistance and support to habitat research via scholarship funds, NSERC grants, ENGO programs and academic research initiatives.

**GOAL VII: To ensure that the importance of wildlife habitat in Canada is promoted.**

A knowledgeable public is the key to major advancements in habitat conservation. Public support, based on an understanding of issues and options, can be a powerful ally in the generation of support for habitat initiatives, and in the achievement of sustainable development objectives in Canada.

**CWS Strategy:** CWS will actively promote the importance of wildlife habitat in Canada, by:

° cooperating in the design and delivery of a Canada-wide public awareness program for habitat;

° ensuring research results are available in formats suitable for public use and information (eg. outputs targeted to decision-makers, planners);

° ensuring effective consultation with the public, ENGOs and the private sector;

° ensuring the status of wildlife habitat is included in SOE reports;

° expanding public awareness programs on National Wildlife Areas, where appropriate;

° promoting the establishment of demonstration areas as a means of educating the public in the importance of habitat conservation;

° encouraging the active public participation in habitat conservation programs (eg. award incentives, 4-H projects);

° providing information and expertise, ie. extension services to landowners on habitat conservation practices; and,

° articulating and promoting a wildlife conservation ethic among Canadians.

**CWS Action Plan:** In pursuit of this strategy, CWS Headquarters and Regions will undertake the following actions:

- consult with the public, ENGOs and the private sector in the further development, refinement and implementation of habitat conservation initiatives;

- provide opportunities for public review and evaluation of the federal government's performance relative to habitat conservation goals;

- develop thematic SOE reports and chapters regarding the status of key habitat areas in Canada;

- participate in land-related initiatives of other federal departments, sensitizing them to habitat conservation opportunities and issues;

- publishing and presenting habitat-oriented articles/papers in a wide range of publications and public fora;

- expanding wildlife socio-economic studies to include habitat values, and widely disseminate the results;

- promote landowner contact programs, to improve conservation practices;

- utilize various forms of media, eg. rural newspapers, radio, television, video cassettes, etc. to sensitize landowners to habitat values; and,

- organize/sponsor/participate in symposia, conferences and workshops highlighting the importance of wildlife habitat.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS/ACRONYMES

| | |
|---|---|
| **CCRS** | Canada Centre for Remote Sensing |
| **CEPA** | Canadian Environmental Protection Act |
| **CIDA** | Canadian International Development Agency |
| **CWA** | Canada Wildlife Act |
| **CWS** | Canadian Wildlife Service |
| **DIAND** | Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development |
| **DND** | Department of National Defence |
| **DOE** | Department of the Environment (federal) |
| **EARP** | Environmental Assessment Review Process (federal) |
| **ENGO** | Environmental Non-Government Organization |
| **ERDA** | Economic and Regional Development Agreement |
| **FRDA** | Forestry Resource Development Agreement |
| **GLWQP** | Great Lakes Water Quality Program |
| **MBCA** | Migratory Birds Convention Act |
| **MBS** | Migratory Bird Sanctuary |
| **NAWMP** | North American Waterfowl Management Plan |
| **NSERCC** | Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada |
| **NWA** | National Wildlife Area |
| **OGD** | Other Government Department |
| **PASL** | Plan of Action for the St.Lawrence |
| **PFRA** | Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Act |
| **RENEW** | Recovery of Nationally Endangered Wildlife |
| **SOE** | State of Environment (reporting) |
| **WHC** | Wildlife Habitat Canada |